

Message Text

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ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 ACDA-12 ABF-01 DOE-11
SOE-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PA-02 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 SS-15
SP-02 CEQ-01 INRE-00 /108 R

DRAFTED BY USNRC:RHAUBER
APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM:D B HOYLE
EA/J: D BROWN
OE/IA: D WILLIT (SUBS)
ACDA: R WILLIAMSON
ES/NET/NEP: R DEMING
-----109444 142306Z /62
O 142245Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 065499

EMBASSY PLEASE PASS TO VISITING NRC COMMISSIONER KENNEDY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TECH, JA

SUBJECT:PRESS REPORTS OF GAO VIEWS ON TERMINATING CLINCH
RIVER BREEDER REACTOR

1. SUMMARY. WASHINGTON POST ON MARCH 12 AND NY TIMES ON
MARCH 13 CARRIED STORIES REPORTING THAT THE GENERAL ACCOUNT-
ING OFFICE HAS TOLD CARTER ADMINISTRATION IT CANNOT LEGALLY
PHASE OUT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLINCH RIVER BREEDER REACTOR
AND THAT ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO APPROVES SPENDING TO
TERMINATE THE PROJECT WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR
THE DEBT. END SUMMARY.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, COMPTROLLER GENERAL ELMER
B. STAATS, IN LETTERS DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT CARTER, J.
SCHLESINGER AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON MARCH 10,
STATED HIS OPINION THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE CRBR PROJECT
CAN BE USED ONLY FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION
AND OPERATION OF THE LMFBR AND THAT THEY MAY NOT BE USED TO
TERMINATE SUCH ACTIVITIES. USE OF ANY SUCH FUNDS TO TERMI-

NATE CONSTRUCTION WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORD WITH THE LAW, STAATS SAID. HE ALSO QUOTED A PORTION OF THE US CODE THAT SAYS "THE OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE CERTIFYING A VOUCHER SHALL... BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR AND REQUIRED TO MAKE GOOD TO THE US THE AMOUNT OF ANY ... PAYMENT PROHIBITED BY LAW...".

HE ADDED THAT GIVEN THIS ADVANCE WARNING, RELIEF FROM LIABILITY OF ANY CRBR CERTIFYING OFFICERS INVOLVED WILL NOT BE GRANTED. STAATS' ACTION WAS TRIGGERED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S SIGNING INTO LAW ON MARCH 7 OF A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL THAT CONTAINED \$80 MILLION FOR THE CRBR. IN A WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE ON THE SIGNING, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT THE CRBR IS A WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY AND THAT AN UNSPECIFIED PORTION OF THE \$80 MILLION WOULD BE USED TO "TERMINATE FURTHER" THE PROJECT "IN AN ORDERLY WAY." VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
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